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МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ АМНИСТИЯ
منظمة العفو الدولية
國際特赦組織

URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL **AI Index: ASA 21/39/95**

UA 196/95 **Fear of arbitrary detention / Fear of torture** **10 August 1995**

EAST TIMOR

Helder
Bento Ximenes
Fernando Maia
Abilio

Virgilio
Constancio
Angelo
Isidoro
Domingos

and six unnamed youths in Baucau

At least 10 people have been arrested following disturbances, sometimes violent, in East Timor during the past three weeks. Another five East Timorese youths may face arrest in relation to these incidents. Amnesty International recognizes the right of police authorities to detain and bring to justice those responsible for acts of violence; however, it fears that those detained may be ill-treated or tortured in incommunicado detention, and that the authorities may use the violence as a pretext to arrest and imprison non-violent pro-independence activists.

Four East Timorese youths - Helder, Bento Ximenes, Fernando Maia and Abilio - were arrested following disturbances on 30 July 1995 in the town of Ermera, 65 kilometres west of the East Timorese capital Dili, in which demonstrators were ostensibly protesting against low coffee commodity prices. The four are reported to be currently held in different prisons in the town. Five others youths - Virgilio, Constancio, Angelo, Isidoro and Domingos, may also face arrest in relation to the same incident.

Ten days earlier, on 20 July, unrest in the town of Baucau some 130km east of Dili led to the arrest of at least six people. In a statement to reporters, Baucau Chief of Police, Colonel Andreas Sugianto said "[w]e have arrested six people and they will be tried soon after for their crimes". He did not say what the six would be charged with or where they are being detained.

Other sources indicate that the number of people arrested in both Baucau and Ermera may be higher.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since November 1994, there have been increased, and sometimes violent, demonstrations against Indonesia's occupation of East Timor. The authorities have responded to the demonstrations with arbitrary detention, including detention of peaceful protesters, beatings, torture and suspected extrajudicial executions. Over 100 East Timorese were arrested following November demonstrations and 27 people are currently believed to be facing trial for their alleged role in these demonstrations. Between two and five people were killed in Baucau in January this year when Indonesian troops opened fire in an attempt to quell riots in the town. Concern for those arrested in recent weeks in Ermera and Baucau is heightened by reports that some of those detained following the November demonstrations were beaten in military detention and several were allegedly subjected to electric shocks. They were also reportedly denied access to lawyers and their families.

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RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/express/airmail letters in Bahasa Indonesia or your own language:
- urging the Indonesian authorities to provide details of the whereabouts of all those detained in recent weeks, as well as any charges that are to be brought against them;
- urging that they be immediately and unconditionally released, unless they are charged with recognisably criminal offences under existing laws;
- calling for all possible measures to be taken to ensure the safety of the detainees;
- calling on the authorities to allow access for those in detention to the International Committee of the Red Cross, lawyers and their families.

APPEALS TO:

CHIEF OF POLICE FOR EAST TIMOR
Lt. Col. Sugianto Andreas
Kapolda Timor Timur
Dili, East Timor (Indonesia)
Telegrams: Kapolda Timor Timur, Dili, East Timor
Salutation: Dear Lieutenant-Colonel

MILITARY COMMANDER REGION IX/UDAYANA
(covers Bali, Lombok, Nusa Tenggara and East Timor)
Brig. Gen. R. Adang Ruchiatna
Pangdam IX/Udayana
Markas Besar KODAM IX Udayana
Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia
Telegrams: Pangdam IX/Udayana, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia
Saluations: Dear Brigadier-General

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ali Alatas SH
Menteri Luar Negeri
Jl Medan Taman Pejambon No 6
Jakarta, Indonesia
Faxes: (62 21) 36 0517

Chair of the National Commission on Human Rights
Ali Said SH
Ketua Komisi Nasional Hak Azasi Manusia
Jalan Veteran No 11
Jakarta, Indonesia
Faxes: (C/- Ministry of Justice) (62 21) 314 1625

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 28 September 1995.